

MEMBERS PRESENT

Springfield Location:

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| Kathy Briseno | Michele Carmichael | Alan Dietrich | Debra Kinsey |
| Merlin Lehman | Andrea Medley | Dee Ann Ryan | Gary Seelbach |
| Randy Staton | Julie Stremlau | Brooke Whitted | |

Chicago Location: (attending by Video conference)

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| Seth Harkins | Edgar Hernandez | Jason Johnson |
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MEMBERS ABSENT

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| Bob Bloom | David Elder |
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STAFF PRESENT

Springfield Location:

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| Mindy Miller | Linda Prewitt | John Schornagel |
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Chicago Location: (attending by Video conference)

Robert Watts

LIAISONS PRESENT

Bill Pumo, IAASE

GUESTS PRESENT

Toni Hoy, Parent

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Seelbach called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. Members and staff in attendance introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 8, 2011 MINUTES

The Authority reviewed the minutes of the December 8, 2011 Authority meetings.

MOTION: *Brooke Whitted moved and Kathy Briseno seconded that the minutes of the December 8, 2011 Authority meeting be approved as amended. The motion carried unanimously.*

III. STAFF REPORT

Director Schornagel referenced the following informational handouts in member board packets:

- **Staff Activity Reports for December 2011 and January 2012.** Director Schornagel commented on the Dispute Resolution table on page two of the December and January reports noting that a Technical Assistance Conference was held in December on a young lady from the Champaign area and that a potential dispute was successfully resolved in late January when an appropriate hospital based placement residential treatment program was located for her. He added that the young lady was moved from an Illinois hospital to a residential treatment program in Missouri, during the first week of February 2012.
- **CRSA Referral Graph.** Director Schornagel indicated that at the last Authority meeting, he was requested to create a graph depicting referral sources for CRSA referrals over a ten year period and that the Graph is included in the board packet. He commented that most of the referrals to CRSA come from parents of children needing assistance.
- **Current CRSA AD HOC Committee Listing**
- Copy of the **CRSA FY 11 Annual Report** that was recently published.
- Director Schornagel commented that at the last Authority meeting the Authority discussed Governor Quinn's recent Rebalancing Initiative suggesting a timetable for closure of mental health and developmental treatment facilities starting in FY 12 and ending in FY 14. Director Schornagel directed the board's attention to a handout in this board packet entitled **Reinvestment Statutes:** the most recent statutes which guide the state on facility closure and reinvestment of funds that result from such closures. Director Schornagel also directed the board's attention to a related **five page press release from Governor Quinn's Office** outlining the Active Community Care Transition Plan, which in the early phase does close the Jacksonville Developmental Center and the Tinley Park Mental Health Center.
- Director Schornagel referenced a **reprint from the Illinois Time entitled "Lawsuit Claims Illinois Illegally Withholds Treatment For Kids"**. He commented that the article pertains to Illinois' limited response to federal requirements to deliver services under EPSDT (early periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment) for all Medicaid eligible children.

IV. AGENCY REPORTS

Alan Dietrich reported on behalf of DHS/DMH that the time lag between services delivery by mental health providers and them receiving payment has begun to shorten, although he reported that the lag in the payment cycle is still six months.

Michele Carmichael reports on behalf of ISBE that conversations will begin soon between ISBE and IDHS to review and reconsider the federally required Interagency Agreement between ISBE and the MH and DD divisions within IDHS. Director Schornagel commented that Interagency Agreement has not been updated for a decade. He updated the Authority on the history of the development of the most recent Interagency Agreement, commenting that both he and then CRSA Director Seelbach were actively involved in those discussions and acted as scribes for those meetings. He also added that he and CRSA staffers have consistently advocated for full implementation of the interagency agreement by all parties since its most recent signing in 2002. Director Schornagel commented that CRSA has historically advocated for a broader Interagency Agreement with a more inclusive membership, other than just ISBE and DHS, involving all child service state agencies in Illinois. He added that with current pressures for change in the system such an inclusive interagency dialogue would necessarily involve other divisions within IDHS, as well as, IDCFS, IDJJ and IHFS. He concluded that revisiting the interagency agreement at this time has the potential to address a far broader range of issues other than the narrow focus of the current Interagency Agreement required under IDEA.

Conversation shifted to a related issue of children in the Individual Care Grant (ICG) program. Michele Carmichael expressed interest in having more information regarding children in ICG placements that don't have Individual Educational Programs (IEPs). Director Schornagel commented that CRSA has seen very few cases like this, because most children that exhibit mental illness to a high enough level to qualify for an ICG are already special education eligible, usually under Emotional Disturbance (ED) and or Other Health Impairment (OHI). Members also commented about: the tensions that exist between state agencies and school districts regarding responsibility for residential placement of children. Dee Ann Ryan suggested that no LEA should be approached to residentially place an emotionally disturbed child for educational purposes without an ICG being completed and denied first. Similarly, Ms. Ryan commented that if EPSDT services were delivered in Illinois as required under federal statutes, there would no longer be any need for the parents of Medicaid eligible children to seek funding for either community-based or residential services currently overseen by IDHS. There was some discussion of how the residency statutes in the Illinois school code now automatically confer special education funding responsibility by resident school districts for children placed in residential placement through the courts by any state agency and the related matter of the outdated practice of the educational co-fund letter required by DHS/DDD. The emergence of Medicaid as a new and potentially large funding silo for residential services under EPSDT for Medicaid eligible children was also discussed. Director Schornagel opined that the broader issue on the table for CRSA is really how to fairly apportion the responsibility and costs for children needing intensive services, both community-based and residential, equitably across all systems. As conversation ensued members expressed support for CRSA's outlook but also expressed pessimism that such an inclusive membership and broad scope would be likely as ISBE revisits the Interagency Agreement with IDHS.

Michele Carmichael also commented that ISBE is entering into a dialogue soon with DCFS Administration to discuss Local Area Networks (LANs).

V. OLD BUSINESS

Director Schornagel informed the Authority that a working draft of a letter is under consideration by him and the Chair, recommending the formation of an independent Custody Relinquishment Task Force. He commented that the Illinois Mental Health Summit recently made almost identical recommendations to the Governor's Office. Dee Ann Ryan commented ACMHAI will be making similar written recommendation as the issue of custody relinquishment surfaced in several statewide EPSDT forums hosted by ACMHIA last year. .

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Dee Ann Ryan expressed concern about the increasing amount of public money Illinois is suspected to be spending on recurrent psychiatric hospitalizations for children with serious emotion and behavioral disorders. While she has reviewed some data from IHFS on current funding for such hospitalizations, she comments that the data does not seem comprehensive. She expressed her opinion that there is an obvious lack of funding for community-based supports and services that could reduce unnecessary psychiatric hospitalizations for children covered by Medicaid. She also commented on the scarcity of a trained community-based workforce and of child and adolescent psychiatrists, both of which she concludes contribute to children being placed in out-of-home placements, including through DCFS guardianship (custody relinquishment), to IDJJ through court commitments and to other residential placements funded through IDHS and ISBE. Merlin Lehman commented that hospitals may actually be losing money on psychiatric hospitalizations for CRSA populations; due in part to payment cycle delays and due to the shrinking payments to Medicaid clients for services delivered in those hospitals.

Dee Ann Ryan updated the Authority on the status of the Governor's Human Services Commission. She commented that the Commission's life has been extended to December 31, 2012 and that several new Sub-committees are emerging to make recommendations before the Commission sunsets at the end of the calendar year. One of those Subcommittees is the "Rationalizing the Human Service System" workgroup. She explained that one of the tasks of the Rationalizing Workgroup will be to make recommendations to relevant state agencies on how to resolve the building list of EPSDT related lawsuits against the state. She opined that CRSA's point of view on that Committee could be helpful, because of its caseload data and its interagency perspective.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

Chairperson Seelbach reported that recent Executive Committee discussion items have been covered under other parts of the agenda.

B. Ad Hoc Staff Evaluation Committee

Chairperson Seelbach updated the Authority that the following members of the Staff Evaluation Committee have continued to deliberate regarding the Evaluation of the Executive Director: Mr. Seelbach as Chair of the Committee; Kathy Briseno and David Elder representing legislative designees; Brooke Whitted representing gubernatorial appointees and Alan Dietrich representing agency designees. The Committee will report back to the Authority at the April Authority meeting.

C. Ad Hoc Policy Committee

Chairperson Seelbach reported that the Policy Committee convened in February 2012 with a limited agenda, discussing possible updates to the CRSA Service Plan. The Committee reviewed the most recent version of the CRSA Statewide Service Plan and a document produced by Director Schornagel with comments and issues. While the Committee agreed that much of the current CRSA Service Plan is still relevant, it also agreed that the Service Plan needed to be updated or retro-fit to be brought up to date with changes occurring in the statewide service system. The Committee agreed that the CRSA Service Principles need to be revisited and perhaps updated. Director Schornagel will work with Policy Committee members to recommend changes and updates to the current CRSA Statewide Service Plan recommendations, including Service Principles. Chairperson Seelbach reported that other topics that surfaced in Policy Committee discussions are the need for a Children's Human Service Sub-Cabinet, positive resolution to the EPSDT lawsuits leading to expanded community-based services, the use of a common measurement tool (perhaps the CANS) to evaluate all children in Illinois who are either considered for residential placement or who are in residential placement, across all system.

VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION

None

IX. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Schornagel commented that Chairperson Emeritus is absent for the February Authority meetings because his daughter is having a child in Maine, requiring his presence. After expressions of concern from several board members relative to absenteeism of the Chairperson Emeritus, Mr. Seelbach agreed to initiate a discussion with the Chairperson Emeritus to address this serious issue.

ISBE offered to do an In-service training for CRSA staff. Similarly, DHS/DDD has offered to do an in-service training for CRSA staff to promote better understanding and communications between the two agencies.

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Bill Pumo from I.A.A.S.E commented that in these times of decreased funding and greater student and family needs the CRSA and our school districts need to focus on working together with the goal of appropriate services for families and students. He added that it appears that professional development activity is already occurring for CRSA as in-service trainings are being discussed between ISBE, DHS/DDD and CRSA to revisit the roles and responsibilities they jointly all share.

Toni Hoy, parent of an adopted child with emotional disturbance and significant behavior problems discussed the interagency ordeal that she and her family endured as they struggled to understand and access the Illinois service system on behalf of their child. She shared that the situation escalated over period of years to the point that the family ultimately faced a psychiatric lock-out as the on viable means to get the child's service needs met, she explained that her child was initially relinquished to DCFS guardianship and that she and her husband were cited for abuse/neglect, which was untimely reversed in Court, but not without legal expenses and unnecessary stress and strife on the whole family. She cited the lack of sufficient community based services, over –reliance on psychiatric hospitalizations, and non-existent interagency coordination as all contributing to their ordeal.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *Brooke Whitted moved and Alan Dietrich seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 10:45 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.*